

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	EAS.79
Historic Name:	Bangs, Seymour House
Common Name:	
Address:	655 Massasoit Rd
City/Town:	Eastham
Village/Neighborhood:	North Eastham
Local No:	08-249
Year Constructed:	c 1858
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Federal
Use(s):	Single Family Dwelling House; Speciality store
Significance:	Architecture
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood Shingle; Wood Foundation: Concrete Unspecified



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

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FORM B - BUILDING

P. NEAST

EAS.79

Massachusetts Historical Commission
 Massachusetts Archives Building
 220 Morrissey Boulevard
 Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Assessor's
 Number

08/249

USGS Quad

Orleans

Area(s)

Form Number

79

Town

Eastham

(neighborhood or village)

655 Massasoit Road

ic Name

Present

Residential

Original

"

f Construction

Pre-1858

See Bibliography*

Form

3/4 Cape Cod House Form
(House and a Half)

ect/Builder

or Material:

Foundation

Concrete

Wall/Trim

Shingles

Roof

Asphalt Shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures Multiple
 attached rear ells and a Gift Shop/Garage

Major Alterations (with dates)

Condition

Good

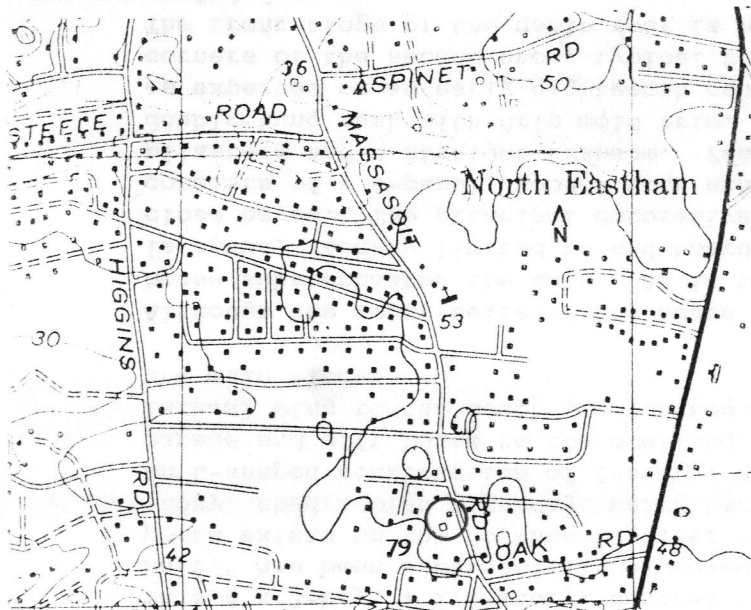
Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date

Acreage

1.0 Acres

Setting Located in a moderately-settled,
 rural area not far from the intersection
 of Massasoit Road and Wiley Lane.

here. Indicate North.



Recorded by: Dianne L. Siergiej
 and Sanford Johnson
 Organization: Commonwealth Collaborative

Date: August 1995

RECEIVED

SEP 20 1995

MASS. HIST. COMM.

BUILDING FORM

655 Massasoit Road

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ See continuation sheet.

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

This 4 x 2-bay, 1 1/2-story, central chimney, 3/4 Cape Cod house, "house and a half," has been substantially expanded by numerous ells and additions. A sun porch exists on the northwest corner of the rear elevation adjacent to a 1-story, shed-roofed appendage which backs up to the 2-story, side addition. An L-shaped construction of 1-story, gable-roofed ells joins the 1950's, 2-bay garage and gift house to the dwelling. All but the oversized, 2-story, lateral wing to the south are located to the rear and to remain subordinate to the main block.

Although the owner believes the house dates from c. 1700, little about the house substantiates the date. As is typical for houses in Eastham, detail is spare, largely limited to end boards and boxed molded cornice with closed eaves. The principal decorative element is the central entry which consists of a 6-panel, wooden door enhanced by slightly-bulbous, paneled pilasters and a straight transom. Fenestration consists of narrow, 1/1, double-hung sash with drip mold trim. Windows are not set close to the eaves as expected on an early eighteenth century house and fixed windows near the corners of the second story typical to Cape Cod houses are absent. The front slope of the gable roof is broken by the installation of 2, gable-roofed dormers.

The second story to the addition may have been added in the 1950's when the garages and a breezeway were constructed.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ☒ See continuation sheet.

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

Massasoit Road was developed during the Federal Period (1775-1830). By the end of the Federal Period, Methodists had established a campground near Campground Road off Massasoit Road. This center for summer religious retreats lasted from 1830 to 1862 when the camp moved to Yarmouth. By 1831, one of Eastham's five schools and many residences were located on Massasoit Road.

It is likely that many of the residents were involved in agriculture. Grains were an early cash crop in Eastham and later, asparagus and turnips became more common. Husbandry and fishing were also important sources of income for Massasoit Road residents. By 1901, at least seven farmers were living on Massasoit Road. There were also a clerk, lighthouse keeper, laborer and a grocer. A provisions store was located on the corner of Oak and Massasoit Roads. By the twentieth century, the road had become an important way from Orleans through Eastham to Wellfleet. Seasonal residents had begun building summer homes and cottages by the Early Modern Period.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☒ See continuation sheet.

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places;
If checked, see attached National Register Criteria Statement form.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

655 Massasoit Road
Eastham

Area Form No. 79

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (continued)

Information provided by a member of the family who currently owns this house indicates that 655 Massasoit Road was built c. 1700 by "Captain Bangs." No information on Captain Bangs was located in local, secondary sources. A house appears at the site on the Hales 1831 map of Eastham, which does not identify owners or residents.

The 1858 and 1888 maps of Eastham ascribe the property to Seymour and Annie Bangs. Seymour Bangs was the son of John D. Bangs. In 1851, he was appointed to the committee to select a site for the new town house. The property passed to their son, Scotter (also Scatter, Scotta) Bangs (b. 1837), a lifelong carpenter. Scatter P. Bangs returned to Eastham in 1888 after an absence of twenty-six years. He married Julia Nickerson. Deed research completed the Eastham Historical Society traces the chain of title only as far as Scotter P. and Julia Bangs.

The next owner was Cyrus Campbell who acquired the property in 1903. He sold to James and Rose Bresnahan in 1954.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (continued)

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*House File 655 Massasoit Road, Eastham Historical Society Archives.

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